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accommodated, and

a current collecting plate joined to the flat plane formed at one side of the electrode plate group.

2. (Amended) The rechargeable battery according to claim 1, wherein the positive electrode plate and the negative electrode plate are wound in spiral fashion with the separator interposed therebetween, with their current collectors being respectively projected at opposite ends of the electrode plate group thereby forming respective projected portions, and flat planes are formed at opposite ends of the electrode plate group by pressing said projected portions of the current collectors at opposite ends of the electrode plate group in directions along the winding axis of the electrode plate group.

3. (Amended) The rechargeable battery according to claim 2, wherein the current collecting plate is arranged in contact with each of the flat planes, and is laser-welded in the radial direction at a plurality of locations in the circumferential direction.

4. (Amended) The rechargeable battery according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the current collecting plate is formed with a plurality of ribs thereon such as to protrude towards the projected portions of the current collectors, the flat planes being formed by pressing said ribs against the projected portions of the current collectors and the current collecting plate is welded to each of the current collectors at said ribs.